

Date: Sat, 23 Oct 93 04:30:05 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1259
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Sat, 23 Oct 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1259

Today's Topics:

 "Vanity" Call Signs
 Breaking in
 GMRS (was: New UHF "Personal Use" Band?) (2 msgs)
 Help out a beginner please.
 questionable repeater operation
 TELEX headset 5x5 Pro IR Techinfo?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 22 Oct 93 20:00:49 GMT
From: ogicse!hp-cv!sdd.hp.com!portal!lhaven.UUmh.Ab.Ca!combdyn!
lawrence@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: "Vanity" Call Signs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2a62vv\$g29@clarknet.clark.net> andy@clark.net (Andrew M. Cohn) writes:

>
>: VANITY CALLSIGNS AUTHORIZED
>
>: Both the House and Senate have approved legislation authorizing the FCC to
>: issue unique amateur radio callsigns, at a cost of \$7 per year, to the ham
>: community. The surprise measure was inserted into the recently signed
>: deficit reduction bill of President Clinton.

>
>While I think this is a neat idea, I am puzzled about what configuration
>a vanity call would take. Unlike vanity tags, call letters currently

>indicate country and call area, although the latter is somewhat useless
>given our mobility these days. Anyone have ideas about what a "vanity
>call" might look like? Perhaps something like "IH8DX"?? {:->

>

>K4ADL

>andy@clark.net

>

Strange that they call it vanity callsigns. Just because the Ham can request a specific callsign instead of getting an automatically assigned one.

Its not quite the same as vanity license plates work. Up here where license plates are issued as "Letter-Letter-Letter Number-Number-Number", vanity plates can be whatever up to 7 characters not in the same style as regular plates.

Amateurs seem to like getting vanity license plates with their call sign on them. I once wanted to request "LKC 152", but that was in the form of a normal plate, so it was denied. The real plate has since been issued.

Up here we are allowed to request our own callsigns.....which just means that you have choice on the last three letters. Since the area prefix is still controlled. You didn't expect to be able to request a different countries call prefix through the FCC?

So, I got VE6LKC (Lawrence K. Chen).

The club repeater is VE6HAT (located in Medicine Hat), another local repeater is known as VE6MHT (another abbreviation of the city), and another repeater is VE6HHO (sponsored by the Hat Horizons Club).

I really hope if they do anything right, that they restrict the callsigns that can be requested.

There's an amateur in the area using VE6STD. On the otherhand, some of us feel his callsign should be VE6LID.

--

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WORK: lawrence@combdyn.com	(403)529-2162	(403)529-2516
HOME: dreamer@lhaven.uumh.ab.ca	(403)526-6019	(403)529-5102

disclamer = (working_for && !representing) + (Combustion Dynamics Ltd.);

Date: 22 Oct 93 20:11:38 GMT

From: ogicse!hp-cv!sdd.hp.com!portal!lhaven.UUmh.Ab.Ca!combdyn!

lawrence@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: Breaking in
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2487@arrl.org> bbattles@arrl.org (Brian Battles WS10) writes:

>>

>>Obvious options include:

>> 1) Wait for a pause and say your whole call sign.

>

> Most common and logical technique. Good amateur practice, on any band/mode.

>Then play it by ear to see if you are welcome in the QSO. (That's often

>clear if you've done as you should, and simply listened for a while first.)

>

This what we are trying to move to here. But, the big problem is getting in between those people who are fast on the trigger.

The timer on our repeater doesn't reset unless people let the tail drop completely out, so we encourage people not to be so fast on the trigger. But, lots of people get bitten by the aligator....and you have to wait for them to unkey before you can tell them that they got bitten and have to say everything again.

>

>PERSONAL COMMENTARY: BTW, in an actual life-threatening emergency, you need

>not even worry about if you have a license. If a human life is in obvious,

>grave, imminent danger, FCC rules permit transmissions to help save lives.

>(Even if not otherwise specified, it's improbable that the FCC would move

>to penalize anyone who used any radio on any frequency to, in fact, save

>anyone's life.)

>

> I'd personally grab a police radio or a broadcast station's mike, if

>one was nearby and that's all I had available, if I was in a remote location

>(ie, no telephone) where someone was bleeding to death or had been hit by a

>truck and was dying in the road. Like the FCC is going to fine me!

>

They might slap your wrist though. There was a real life-threatening emergency a few years back, where an operator trying to relay an emergency call was being frustrated by the weak signal....resorted to an overpowered illegal linear amplifier. They told him that it was okay that he used it since it was an emergency, but it should disappear never to be used ever again if he didn't want trouble.

I also hear that there is an EMT that regularly uses his HT (with extended TX) on the Ambulance channel. Of course his mobile used to be a commercial ambulance radio pushed over into the Amateur band.

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disclamer = (working_for && !representing) + (Combustion Dynamics Ltd.);

Date: 22 Oct 93 11:55:19 EDT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: GMRS (was: New UHF "Personal Use" Band?)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, kharker@bnr.ca (Kenneth E. Harker) writes:

>
> I was in Radio Shack briefly the other day, and I noticed something
>that surprised me. RS is now selling a UHF radio that operates in what
>I presume is a new band. I forget the exact frequencies, but it is in
>the 400s, right above or not too far above the amateur 440MHz band.
>The range quoted on the box was one mile. Other interesting things were
>that the only legal mode of operation is voice, you have to have a valid
>FCC license to operate, and, at least on the RS unit, there was just
>a channel 1/channel 2 toggle on the top for frequency selection.
> Does anyone know what this new band is all about?

This is known as the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), which is provided for in FCC Rules Part 95, Subpart A. It's a land mobile radio service available to any individual for short-distance, two-way communications to facilitate the activities of licensees and their immediate family members who live in the same household. GMRS licensees may operate repeaters and base or mobile rigs running up to 50 watts power output, but a GMRS operator may only communicate with other stations licensed in your GMRS system. It's primarily a personal radio service and although no companies may obtain GMRS licenses, individuals may obtain licenses and use the GMRS to conduct business.

In some areas, members of Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT) use GMRS in addition to ham and CB radio.

The GMRS frequencies are (most repeater systems use CTCSS):

Designator	Base/Mobile (MHz)	Mobile (MHz)
550	462.550	467.550
575	462.575	467.575
600	464.600	467.600
625 (black dot)	462.625	467.625
650	462.650	467.650
675 (Orange, REACT)	464.675	467.675
700	462.700	462.700
725	462.725	462.725

Splinter Frequencies (MHz)

5625	462.5625
5875	462.5875
6125	462.6125
6375	462.6375
6625	462.6625
6875	462.6875
7125	462.7125

You use FCC Form 574 to apply, with a \$35 fee for a five-year license. In a practical sense, GMRS is sort of a unique "limbo" between ham radio, commercial land mobile and CB. It can be viewed by some as sort of "no-exam" service to use repeaters to chat with the spouse or kids, but no "experimentation is allowed, and no autpatches, data, teletype or other modes are permitted.

I don't know exactly what year the FCC created the GMRS, but it made substantial changes in its licensing regs in 1989, discontinuing issuing licensing to businesses, etc.

Hope this helps!

CUL es 73 de BB

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=====
Brian Battles, WS10      I Tel      203-666-1541, ext 222 I  "Radio amateurs
QST Features Editor     I Fax      203-665-7531          I  do it with high
ARRL HQ                 I Internet bbattles@arrl.org      I      frequency"
Newington, CT USA       I Amprnet  ws1o@ws1o.ampr.org [44.88.0.87]
=====

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COMMENTS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE MY OWN PERSONAL REMARKS AND ARE NOT TO BE
CONSIDERED OFFICIAL ARRL VIEWS OR POLICY..

Date: 22 Oct 93 12:24:04 EDT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: GMRS (was: New UHF "Personal Use" Band?)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, rbarnaby@world.std.com (Richard L Barnaby) writes:
>B10990@ANLVM.CTD.ANL.GOV writes:

>
>>to tell GMRS from ham radio in terms of technical quality and radio
>>etiquette. It appears to me to be a very good way for family members to
>>communicate by radio without taking a license exam...as opposed to cb,
>>which appears to me to be a very bad way for family members to communicate

>>by radio without taking a license exam.

>Howzabout those walkie talkies you see contractors using on a jobsite. Do
>these fall in the same or different channel?

Those are normally business-band VHF radios that typically run 2 watts or less on the 151.625 "itinerant" frequency. Most business band operation is found at 27.43-43 MHz (VHF Low), 150-173.4 MHz (VHF High), 457-470 MHz (UHF), 470-512 MHz (UHF T Band) and 806-940 MHz (High UHF Trunking).

Hand-held VHF business band radios can usually be purchased over the counter, but not used without an FCC license (no exams, just fees!). More complex systems are commonly sold or rented by commercial two-way radio contractors, which can also help take care of licensing.

VHF base/mobile radios are generally limited to 110 watts max, and much UHF uses 110-watt repeaters. Lots of it is tone-squelched. FCC Form 574 is required for a license, fee about \$40. Repeateres are coordinated by the National Association of Business and Educational Radio (NABER), and coordination fees run about \$110. (See FCC Part 90.)

CUL es 73 de BB

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*****
Brian Battles, WS10      I Tel      203-666-1541, ext 222 I  "Radio amateurs
QST Features Editor     I Fax      203-665-7531          I  do it with high
ARRL HQ                 I Internet bbattles@arrl.org      I  frequency"
Newington, CT USA      I Amprnet  ws1o@ws1o.ampr.org [44.88.0.87]
*****

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COMMENTS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE MY OWN PERSONAL REMARKS AND ARE NOT TO BE
CONSIDERED OFFICIAL ARRL VIEWS OR POLICY..

Date: 22 Oct 93 11:02:29 EST
From: concert!ecsgate!lrc.edu!sidak_ok@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Help out a beginner please.
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Looking for two hand held 2M radios(like the one Radio Shack sells) I can pay up to \$200 for one, as a new person to this would like any advise or help you can give me, I want to get one of the no code permits for now.
Please e-mail me any responcees because I don't have easy access to this news group

Omar

Date: 22 Oct 93 20:30:12 GMT
From: ogicse!hp-cv!sdd.hp.com!portal!lhaven.UUmh.Ab.Ca!combdyn!
lawrence@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: questionable repeater operation
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <9310211509.aa06752@cbda7.apgea.army.mil> wejones@cbda7.apgea.army.mil
(Bill Jones) writes:

>About a year ago I was traveling in the northeast, and a friend who lives
>in the area I was visiting suggested I look for him on a big wide area
>linked system that included 6m,220 and 440 access. On trying to get him
>unsucessfully, {I could hear him, [he was on 220] and could bring up the
>repeater on 440, but he could not hear me} I found out that the audio link
>in the 440 input was down, broken, we thought. On two more occasions
>separated by several months, I visited the area again only to find that the
>system was still down. Last week, I visited the area again, and on finding
>the system still down, was informed that the owner of the repeater had it
>purposely turned off, "to keep out the riff-raff"! In other words, this
>repeater has been "broadcasting" for about a year all the qso's on the
>220 side of the system over the 440 output, but no input has been possible
>through the 440 input. I presume that the repeater owner had the capability
>of opening up the 440 link for his own use, but other than that, I can't
>imagine why anyone would do such a thing. I don't think there is anything
>illegal about this operation, especially in light of how little 440 is used,
>but it's kind of annoying to hear all this activity, and hear the beeps
>from bringing up the repeater, but not being able to get in.
>Doesn't seem like a very appropriate use of spectrum to me. Any comments?
>

I find this kind of behaviour inappropriate too....I don't know about the
legal side. But, I rode into town where our main 2m repeater was being
broadcasted on 446 (440 Simplex Calling channel)....but I couldn't talk to
back to anybody.

I didn't find out until several different trips that CTCSS was required
on 446 to talk back. And, it was only for the benefit on the ham operator
to hit the 2m repeater from his place of work (down in a hole with lots
of RFI....he keeps moving about because depending on which part of town
he's in...get's interference on different parts of the 440 band) Sometimes
its a problem with what he does, but other times we tolerate it. Like the
time we had an emergency exercise, and we discovered that we couldn't talk
from the police station on simplex to city hall. So, he whipped up his mobile
truck repeater and we were back in business.....they guy is real scary, but
we tolerate him.

For months we talked about fixing our link repeater, finally out of the blue the guy buys himself an IFR (used from a commercial shop) and goes out and tweaks it up. They guy has 100s of radios in his garage. Everybody says to go to him if you can't find it anywhere else. He's probably got it somewhere in his garage. Well, there's one person that isn't smiling about this guy... and that's that XYL.....I guess I can't blame her. The RF from his place is so bad, you can find it by observing the desense from his house.

He lives a couple blocks from the packet BBS, so when the BBS is deaf it means he's playing with a new toy. Once doing a file transfer to the BBS, he was annoyed by retries, so he cranked his power and desensed the receiver on the BBS. Of course the BBS operator retaliated by raising his power to desense back.

Oops, I've digressed....

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disclamer = (working_for && !representing) + (Combustion Dynamics Ltd.);

Date: 22 Oct 1993 16:00:26 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!spool.mu.edu!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!pipex!uknet!mcsun!
sun4nl!tuegate.tue.nl!blade.stack.urc.tue.nl!robs@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: TELEX headset 5x5 Pro IR Techinfo?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Dear OM's, I came into the posession of a TELEX 5 x 5 Pro IR headset. I intend to use it, if possible on my radio equipment. In order to do this, I need to know how I connect this headset to my set, and how to apply the obviously needed power. It's a headset with boom-mike and freely moveable eartips. Incorporated in the cable is an 'in-line amplifier' wich will need x volts of power, and outputs the mike signal to the set, while the received audio goes through a bypass back to the eartips. I do have some pages from Maintenance en overhaul manual ATA 23-50-04, but it learns me nothing about how to connect this thing to something else than it was specifically designed for, and besides, the plug(s) is (are) gone. I guess I'm not the only person owing such a thing, so maybe someone has a real doc, and is able to help me. Please E-mail me if so, and we can arrange something by snail mail or whatever is necessary to get informed.

Thanks in advance, 73,
Rob, PA3AXI, robs@stack.urc.tue.nl

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1259
